existing Election Laws and the improvements made thereto by the recently enacted Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1988, the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988 etc. contain adequate provisions.

**Appeal by Christian churches during recent Mizoram elections**

2412. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindi Daily Janasatta of January 15, 1989 to the effect that during the recent election campaign in Mizoram a joint appeal was issued by ten churches which in effect favoured a particular party;

(b) if so, what was the text of the appeal; and

(c) whether such appeals attract any provisions of the law barring use of religious places for political purposes, if so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Government's attention has been drawn to the news item referred to. It may be clarified, however, that the joint appeal does not seem to contain anything favouring any particular political party. The appeal made is a general one to the people of Mizoram asking them mainly to conduct the election campaign in a fair manner, vote freely and extend support to candidates who are free from social evils.

(c) The Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988 has provisions prohibiting a religious institution or manager thereof from using or allowing the use of any premises belonging to or under the control of the institution, *inter alia*, for the promotion or propagation of any political activity. Whether the provisions of the Act have been infringed or not is a matter to be determined by the authorities concerned under a judicial process in accordance with the due process of law.

**Non-Plan expenditure of Central Government**

2413. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Non-Plan expenditure of the Central Government upto the end of December, 1988 during the current financial year;

(b) how does it compare with the corresponding period during each of the last two financial years; and

(c) what specific steps have been taken during the current year to effectively curb Non-Plan expenditure of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K GADHVI): (a) to (c) The amounts booked in the accounts of a month do not fully reflect the transactions that have taken place in that month and there is a varying time lag before the entire expenditure is adjusted under appropriate heads. Further the pace of expenditure in a month will depend on the time schedule of contractual payments commitments etc. which may vary from year to year. Hence month-wise figures of expenditure will not provide a basis for fair comparison. The expenditure figure booked in a year as a whole would be more representative of the actual expenditure incurred in that year. The figures of Non-Plan expenditure over the previous years and the estimated expenditure of current year and their broad break up are given in the Budget document—Expenditure Budget